



APPEAL DECISION

TAHLIA HOPE

and

RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS

Date of Hearing: 30 November 2017

Heard By: Judge Bowman (Chair)

Appearances: Corie Waller appeared on behalf of the stewards.
Des O'Keeffe appeared on behalf of Ms Hope.

At Ballarat on Saturday 25 November 2017, apprentice jockey Tahlia Hope pleaded guilty to a charge under AR 145 for weighing in in excess of 0.5kg over her declared weight.

The charge relating to her ride on *Proud Wolf*, second place-getter in Race 10, the *City of Ballarat Tonks Plate* (1200m).

Ms Hope had her permit to ride in races suspended for a period to commence at midnight on Sunday, 26 November 2017 and to expire at midnight on Sunday, 10 December 2017 - a total of 16 race meetings (5 metro, 11 provincial).

In assessing penalty Stewards took into account her guilty plea, her record, the circumstances surrounding the incident, as well as the fact it was beaten for 1st by a long neck and Stewards were of the opinion that this may have affected the result of the race.

A Notice of Appeal against **the severity of the penalty** was lodged on Monday, 27 November 2017. A stay of proceedings was not requested.

DECISION: Appeal allowed.

Penalty varied so that the period of suspension expires at midnight on Sunday, 3 December 2017 (8 race meetings).